



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: Hiromichi AKIMOTO et al
Application No.: 10/035,421
Filed: November 1, 2001
For: APPARATUS FOR FREEZE-DRYING FOODSTUFFS
AND MEDICAMENTS

Art Unit: 3749
Examiner: A.M. Ragonese
Confirmation No. 2427
Atty.'s Docket: AKIMOTO=4
Washington, D.C.
Date: December 1, 2003

Mail Stop **Non-Fee Amendment**
Honorable Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a [] Amendment [XX] **REPLY: RESPONSE** in the above-identified application.

- [] Small Entity Status: Applicant(s) claim small entity status. See 37 C.F.R. §1.27.
[] A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 CFR 1.9 and 1.27 is enclosed.
[XX] No additional fee is required.
[] The fee has been calculated as shown below:

| | (Col. 1) | | (Col. 2) | (Col. 3) |
|---|---|-------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT | | HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR | PRESENT EXTRA EQUALS |
| TOTAL | * 8 | MINUS | ** 20 | 0 |
| INDEP. | * 1 | MINUS | *** 3 | 0 |
| FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEP. CLAIM | | | | |

ADDITIONAL FEE TOTAL

| SMALL ENTITY | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| RATE | ADDITIONAL FEE |
| x 9 | \$ |
| x 42 | \$ |
| + 140 | \$ |
| ADDITIONAL FEE TOTAL | |
| \$ | |

| OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| RATE | ADDITIONAL FEE |
| x 18 | \$ |
| x 84 | \$ |
| + 280 | \$ |
| TOTAL | |
| \$ | |

- * If the entry in Col. 1 is less than the entry in Col. 2, write "0" in Col. 3.
** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid for" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, write "20" in this space.
*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid for" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, write "3" in this space.

The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (total or independent) is the highest number found from the equivalent box in Col. 1 of a prior amendment of the number of claims originally filed.

[XX] Conditional Petition for Extension of Time

If any extension of time for a response is required, applicant requests that this be considered a petition therefor.

[] It is hereby petitioned for an extension of time in accordance with 37 CFR 1.136(a). The appropriate fee required by 37 CFR 1.17 is calculated as shown below:

Small Entity

Response Filed Within

- [] First - \$ 55.00
[] Second - \$ 205.00
[] Third - \$ 465.00
[] Fourth - \$ 725.00

Month After Time Period Set

Other Than Small Entity

Response Filed Within

- [] First - \$ 110.00
[] Second - \$ 410.00
[] Third - \$ 930.00
[] Fourth - \$ 1450.00

Month After Time Period Set

[] Less fees (\$) already paid for month(s) extension of time on .

- [] Please charge my Deposit Account No. 02-4035 in the amount of \$.
[] Credit Card Payment Form, PTO-2038, is attached, authorizing payment in the amount of \$.
[] A check in the amount of \$ is attached (check no.).

[XX] The Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge any additional fees which may be required in connection with this application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-4035. This authorization and request is not limited to payment of all fees associated with this communication, including any Extension of Time fee, not covered by check or specific authorization, but is also intended to include all fees for the presentation of extra claims under 37 CFR §1.16 and all patent processing fees under 37 CFR §1.17 throughout the prosecution of the case. This blanket authorization does not include patent issue fees under 37 CFR §1.18.

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